

Amendments To the Claims:

Please amend the claims as shown. Applicants reserve the right to pursue any cancelled claims at a later date.

1.-17. (cancelled)

18. (currently amended) A method for routing of data packets for avoiding circulation of the data packets, in a packet-switched network, made up of routers, which uses traffic distribution, the method comprising:

providing a routing table for each node in the packet-switched network for forwarding data packets through the packet-switched network, wherein each routing table comprises next hop data for each pair of ingress/egress nodes where the data packet can enter and leave the packet-switched network respectively;

assigning a label to a data packet at an ingress node where the data packet enters the network, wherein the label comprises data representing the ingress node and an egress node where the data packet will leave the packet-switched network;

forwarding a the data packet from the ingress node to the egress node by an internal router of the packet-switched network by accessing the routing table for each node traversed in the packet-switched network, and reading the next hop data for the pair of ingress/egress nodes that coincides with the label; and

providing alternative routes for the forwarding of the data packet in the routing table for each pair of ingress/egress nodes when an alternate next hop is available, wherein

the forwarding of the data packet is carried out by using at least one item of data about the access interface at which the data packet entered the packet-switched network and one item of data about the egress interface, at which the data packet is to leave the packet-switched network.

19. (currently amended) The method according to Claim 18, further comprising:

providing the data packet at the ~~access interface~~ ingress node with identification data used by the internal router to identify the ingress node and egress node ~~access interface and the egress interface~~.

20. (currently amended) The method according to Claim 19, wherein the identification data include an identifier or a network address for the ingress node and egress node ~~access interface and the egress interface~~.

21. (currently amended) The method according to Claim 20, wherein
at the ~~access interface~~ ingress node the data packet is supplied with a data field,
and wherein
the internal router takes from the data field the data about the ~~access interface~~ ingress node at which the packet entered the packet-switched network and the data about its egress node interface.

22. (currently amended) The method according to Claim 21, wherein
the data packet is supplied with a data field, wherein
the data field is added onto the data packet as a header or a trailer, and wherein
the data field includes an identifier for the ~~access interface~~ ingress node and the egress node interface.

23. (currently amended) The method according to Claim 21, wherein
the data packet is supplied with two data fields, wherein
each of the data fields is added to the data packet as a header or a trailer, wherein
one of the data fields includes an identifier for the ~~access interface~~ ingress node
and the other data field includes an identifier for the egress node interface.

24. (previously presented) The method according to Claim 22, wherein a bit sequence is appended to or prefixed to at least one data field, identifying the data field as such.

25. (currently amended) The method according to Claim 22, wherein
at the ingress node interface, the data packet is supplied with at least one data
field, and wherein
this data field is removed at the egress node interface.

26. (currently amended) The method according to Claim 21, wherein at least one data
field is provided by an MPLS a Multiprotocol Label Switching label.

27. (previously presented) The method according to Claim 20, wherein the identification
data is written into a field provided as part of the format for the data packet.

28. (currently amended) The method according to Claim 18, wherein
the egress node interface is referenced by an identifier, wherein
the identifier of the egress node interface is determined by reference to a network
address in the network, to which the data packet is to be forwarded after it has traversed the
packet-switched network, and wherein
the determination of the identifier of the egress node interface is carried out at the
ingress node interface by reference to the network address, using a table.

29. (currently amended) The method according to Claim 18, further comprising:
supplying the data packet at the ingress node access—~~interface~~ with an
identification data used by the internal router for identifying the ingress node access—~~interface~~,
wherein the identification data include an identifier or a network address for the ingress node
~~access interface~~; and
determining the data about the egress node interface by the internal router by
using address data extracted from the data packet.

30. (currently amended) The method according to Claim 18, wherein the internal router determines the data about the ingress node ~~access interface~~ and the data about the egress node interface by using address data extracted from the data packet.

31. (currently amended) The method according to Claim 18, wherein ~~the forwarding of the data packet is effected with the help of a routing table~~, the routing table assigns the data about the ~~access interface~~ ingress node at which the data packet entered the packet-switched network and the data about the egress node interface to a network address for the next hop.

32. (currently amended) The method according to Claim 18, further comprising:
supplying the data packet at the ingress node ~~access interface~~ with a data field for identifying the flow; and
performing the forwarding of the data packet by the internal router according to the data field.

33. (currently amended) An internal router in a packet-switched network for performing a method for routing of data packets for avoiding circulation of the data packets, in a packet-switched network, made up of routers, which uses traffic distribution, ~~the method~~ comprising:

a routing table stored for each node in the packet-switched network for forwarding data packets through the packet-switched network, wherein each routing table comprises next hop data for each pair of ingress/egress nodes where the data packet can enter and leave the packet-switched network respectively;

wherein the internal router:

assigns a label to a data packet at an ingress node where the data packet enters the network, wherein the label comprises data representing the ingress node and an egress node where the data packet will leave the packet-switched network;

forwardsing a the data packet from the ingress node to the egress node by an internal router of the packet-switched network by accessing the routing table for each node traversed in the packet-switched network, and reading the next hop data for the pair of ingress/egress nodes that coincides with the label; and

provides providing alternative routes for the forwarding of the data packet in the routing table for each pair of ingress/egress nodes when an alternate next hop is available;
wherein

~~the forwarding of the data packet is carried out by using at least one item of data about the access interface at which the data packet entered the packet-switched network and on item of data about the egress interface, at which the data packet is to leave the packet-switched network, wherein the internal router comprises a routing table which assigns the data about the access interface at which the data packet entered the packet-switched network and the data about the egress interface to a network address for the next hop.~~